



The AUSTRALIAN U.F.O. BULLETIN



The Victorian U.F.O. Research Society
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Australia U.F.O. Bulletin

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This is the official publication of the Victorian U.F.O. Research Society

P.O. Box 43,
Moorabbin, Victoria 3189
Australia



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WELCOME:

The Society welcomes reports of unusual Aerial Phenomena and evaluates each report on its own merits and if requested, reports will be held in the strictest confidence. The Society exchanges information with many similar Australian and overseas organisations, as well as scientists, and disseminates to the public, available information on the subject, which includes local, interstate and the latest overseas developments in its quarterly publication "Australian U.F.O. Bulletin," posted to all members. Address all communications to:

V.U.F.O.R.S.,
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Society History

1957

1957

At this point perhaps it may be opportune to present a brief history of the Victorian U.F.O. Research Society.

The earliest U.F.O. group to form in Australia was the "Australian Flying Saucer Bureau" under the direction of Edgar Jarrold and Andrew Tomas, in the early 1950s. At the same time, Fred Stone inaugurated the "Australian Flying Saucer Research Society" in Adelaide. After approximately two years the Bureau closed down and was regarded as a branch of the "Australian Flying Saucer Research Society" under Andrew Tomas. This shortly broke from Adelaide and became the "Australian U.F.O. Investigation Centre" with Dr. Clifford at its head until 1958, when the Presidency passed to Dr. Lindtner.

The "Australian Flying Saucer Research Society (Victorian Branch)" was formed on the 17th February, 1957 as a branch of the "Australian Flying Saucer Research Society" and later that year was re-organised as the "Victorian Flying Saucer Research Society" with Mr. Peter E. Norris L.L.B. as President. In 1968 the name was again altered — this time to the "Victorian U.F.O. Research Society".

During this time, the Society has published various papers and is probably best known for its publication Australian Flying Saucer Review, curtailed in 1972 due to high costs and subsequently superseded by the Australian U.F.O. Bulletin and at one stage sponsored and produced a quarter-hour program on a Melbourne radio station under the heading of "The Truth Behind Flying Saucers".

The Society had held a dispassionate attitude on U.F.O.s, claiming it is a scientific problem deserving closer attention. It has also met regularly in General Meetings and maintains the largest U.F.O. library in the Southern Hemisphere, making books available by post, to members throughout the Commonwealth.

Membership of this Society — which maintains the largest membership of any U.F.O. organisation in the Southern Hemisphere — is open to all who are genuinely interested in the subject.

Australia U.F.O. Bulletin

The Victorian U.F.O. Research Society

P.O. Box 43, Moorabbin, 3189, Vic. Australia -VBH 0122

J U N E 1985

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E D I T O R I A L

Reports of mystery craft manned by mid-
get size occupants are now on the increase. Three
decades ago, such reports were dispatched to the
rubbish heap's.

Now there is reason to believe the U.K.
RENDLESHAM FOREST encounter, with a midget crew,
influenced the British Defence Ministry to admit
that U.F.O.s are real. At the same time the Ministry
released 16 reports to the British U.F.O. Association
(BUFORA). However these reports were insignificant,
when compared to other reports known to be in the
British files.

We have pointed out in the past that the
world defence community would most likely be the
sector from which serious concern would come from,
because of its electronic detection systems and the
thousands of encounters by military pilots.

In the United States, the Air Force first
began investigating U.F.O. reports seriously during
the JULY 1947 period of U.F.O. activity with in
North America.

Less than two months later, SEPT 1947,
the CHIEF OF AIR TECHNICAL INTELLIGENCE CENTER ,
(ATIC), concluded that U.F.O.s were real!

Then one year later, SEPT 1948, ATIC,
relayed it's conclusion to the Air Force, CHIEF OF
STAFF, GENERAL VANDENBERG, that the objects were
under intellegent control and most likely of a
exterrestrial source.

With regard to the RENDLESHAM FOREST,
encounter, the British Ministry of Defence, has
given no explanation for the encounter. Also now,
more Ufologists are paying attention to the story
about PRESIDENT EISENHOWER's meeting with an alien
crew, during February 1954

BILL MOORE, whose article appears in
this edition, has done considerable reasearch into
the activity of PRESIDENT EISENHOWER, during that
day, 20th February 1954.

DOROTHY KILGALLEN, wrote in her synd-
icated column, published by several newspapers that
"Flying saucers are regarded as of such importance
that they will be the subject of a special hush
hush meeting of world military heads next year."

THE COMMITTEE APOLOGISES TO ALL MEMBERS FOR
THE DELAY IN THIS PUBLICATION, IT WAS BEYOND
OUR CONTROL. WE HOPE YOU FIND THIS EDITIONS
PRINTING OF HIGH QUALITY!

Our sympathy and best wishes go to JOAN CLOWES
on the recent loss of her Mother in the United
Kingdom.



IKE & ALIENS

A FEW FACTS ABOUT A PERSISTENT RUMOR

From FOCUS, The Monthly Newsletter of the Fair-Witness Project, Inc. 4219 W. Olive St. Suite 247, Burbank, California 91505. Editor William L. Moore, Co-author of THE ROSWELL INCIDENT.

One of the first conclusions any impartial observer must make about the present state of civilian UFOlogy is that rumor and circumstance play too great a role in what ought to be a more exacting quest for knowledge. It is undoubtedly just such an observation which once led Dr. Carl Sagan to comment dryly that UFOs "are more a matter for religion and superstition than they are for science." While this dismissal is perhaps unscientific in its own right, the point is well taken. Attend any gathering of "UFO people" that you want, and simply listen. Rumors abound.

Perhaps worse, however, is that some of these rumors manage to circulate for years (even decades) without anyone making even a reasonable effort to get to the bottom of them.

One of the most persistent of these rumors is a story that President Eisenhower, in the early part of 1954, visited Edwards Air Force Base (then known as Muroc) in California and either viewed the bodies of dead aliens and the wreckage of their crashed craft, or met with live aliens on some sort of diplomatic mission to earth. The story takes many forms, with the common thread being that the president mysteriously disappeared one evening while on a vacation to Palm Springs, California, and that he was spirited up to Muroc to view (or meet) aliens. It is said that he was returned to Palm Springs by dawn and that shortly thereafter he ordered absolute secrecy about anything having to do with the subject of UFOs. The story is even repeated, with considerable variation, in the forthcoming Disney movie "My Science Project" (Touchstone Films).

While it has not yet been possible to get to the bottom of this particular rumor, FWP has managed to make some progress. From research conducted both at Palm Springs and at Eisenhower Memorial Library in Abilene, Kansas, the following facts have emerged:

(1) President Eisenhower did indeed make a trip to Palm Springs between February 17th and 24th, 1954, and on the evening of Saturday, February 20th, he did disappear. Several members of the press caught wind of the fact that the president was not where he should be and rumors ran rampant that he had either died or was seriously ill. The story even managed to get onto Associated Press New York state wire before being killed moments later. To quell the fuss, White House Press Secretary James Haggerty called a late evening press conference at the Mirador Hotel to announce "solemnly" that the president had been enjoying fried chicken earlier that evening, had knocked a cap off a tooth, and had been taken to a local dentist for treatment. The president turned up for church early the next morning, casting aside whatever lingering doubts that may have been about the affair. According to Haggerty's personal diary for Feb. 20, 1954:

"At Palm Springs- Pres broke cap off tooth- had it fixed at local dentist, Dr. C.A. Purcell- AP, from Syracuse, flashed 'Pres. Eisenhower died tonight of a heart attack at Palm Springs'- someone fooling around with teletype- moved on open state wire- caused some hell but AP killed it 2 minutes later- Called AP New York offices for explanation and to demand a full report."

(2) Although the Palm Springs trip was billed as a vacation for the president, the trip appears to have come up rather suddenly. In addition, it is a matter of record that Ike had returned from a quail-shooting vacation in Georgia less than a week before leaving for Palm Springs.

(3) While the incidence of a local dentist being called upon to treat the

President of the United States is unusual enough that it should constitute a rather memorable event for those involved, Dr. Purcell's widow (during a June, 1979 interview with Moore) was curiously unable to recall any specifics relating to her husband's alleged treatment of the president. In response to simple questions relating to the time of day, the nature of the president's problem, the number of times her husband had treated the president, or even whether the president had been brought to her husband's office or her husband had been taken to the president's rooms at Smoke Tree Ranch, she could only reply that she was unable to recall". Yet her memory appeared flawless when asked to relate details of her and her husband's attendance (by presidential invitation) at an outdoor steak fry the following evening, where her husband was introduced to the press and others as "the dentist who had treated the president". This would appear to suggest a cover story, the details of which would have easily been repeated at the time, but quite naturally forgotten a quarter century later.

(4) Research at the Eisenhower Library has uncovered two other facts which are inconsistent with the dentist story. The first is that while the library maintains an extensive index of records relating to the president's health, there is no record of any dental work having been performed at all in February of 1954. A file on "Dentists" in the President's Personal File also contains nothing on any visit to Dr. Purcell either. Secondly, there is a large file at the library containing copies of all sorts of acknowledgements and thank-you notes which were sent by the White House to people who had something to do with the Palm Springs trip. (A few of these were handwritten by the president himself.) There are letters, for example, to people who sent flowers, people who met the airplane, people who had offered to play golf (or even chess) with the president, etc., etc. There is even a thank you letter to the minister who presided over the Sunday service attended by the president. Yet there is no record of any sort of thank-you or acknowledgement having been sent to the "dentist who treated the president". If the matter were as routine as Haggerty attempts to make it appear, then the absence of these records seems curiously inconsistent.

(5) The rumor of the president and his alleged visit to Muroc is not a new one. Its beginnings can be traced to UFO contactee-fringe literature which appeared less than two months after Ike's Palm Springs trip. Mead Layne, Desmond Leslie and George Hunt Williamson all wrote about it. So did a strange fellow named Gerald Light, who, in a letter to Layne dated April 16th, 1954, actually claimed to have been at Muroc in the company of several dignitaries and to have seen the saucers and the aliens himself. Light's letter has been controversial for years and has turned up in all sorts of places (including The Roswell Incident, in which see pp. 116-118 for the complete text). Investigation into Mr. Light's background, however, turns up the fact that he was an elderly psychic and mystic known in such circles as "Dr. Kappa", and that he believed psychic out-of-body experiences (OBEs) were a logical extension of the reality of life and should be treated as such. Light's alleged visit to Muroc was just such an experience.

And so the investigation comes to a dead end. Clearly something occurred involving President Eisenhower on the evening of February 20, 1954. Whether it was a trip to the dentist, a trip to Muroc, or something altogether different and unrelated, remains a matter of conjecture.

ON THE UFO TRAIL

Copyright 1985, by Paul Norman

During April, I served as an exhibitor on the CUFOS/MUFON booth at the Moncone Center, San Francisco. Hundreds of people filed past and many of them asked questions concerning the riddle of unidentified flying objects. It was amusing to note such questions from the sceptics as: "If UFOs are real why are they seen by airline pilots? " Surely, "if they exist they would be detected by radar." If they are real why don't they land? etc.etc.etc. Such questions originate from people who don't know anything about UFOs And I do not have the patience to be in the convincing business. I prefer to spend my time talking with individuals who have seen something or who know something about the subject.

However, when a Carl Sagan fan asked "Why don't astronomers see them?", I mentioned the incident where three airplane loads of personnel, including astronomers, newsmen and technical observers saw two flying discs while on a flight near Oslo Norway, June, 1954, to study a total eclipse of the sun. The huge discs swooped down out of the clouds and sped along the horizon in clear view of the observers. The objects were filmed and shown on American television before the film disappeared behind the paper curtain of censorship.

On 16th of June, 1985, I found myself in Orlando, Florida, where the news first came to my attention, that the space shuttle was to be launched the following morning. At 2:00 a.m., a friend aroused me out of deep slumber in time to motor out to Cape Canaveral for the event. Although, I was able to get several good shots with my camera while the shuttle was in sight my foremost wish did not eventuate. No UFO made an appearance.

I was hopeful that a similar incident would happen as the encounter which took place at a missile base during January, 1961 when just after a missile soared into the sky a UFO flew nearby causing the radar to lock onto the UFO instead of the missile. It took 14 seconds for the radar operators to get the radar back onto the missile which it was supposed to track. To my knowledge that case is still in classified files.

Perhaps the most interesting and unusual cases that were discussed with ufologists in the United States, were the ones involving reports of implants being left in the bodies of abductees for some reason. One of these cases which appears to be the most likely to produce tangible evidence is now being carried out in America. A lady, now 32 years of age, who when at the age of 16, is reported to have had an abduction. Since that time a low hum can be heard coming from her ear. The sound has been recorded and a scientist is now in the process of analysing the data, which may vindicate those ridiculed abductees who are suffering along the UFO trail.

.....

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JOHN. W. AUCHETTL

SKY CRASH

A Cosmic Conspiracy

BY BRENDA BUTLER, JENNY RANGLES AND DOT STREET

276 Pages
31 Chapters
25 Plates and contacts

What was this story, this rumour that confronted us? Why was it so very different from the countless UFO tales we had met so many times before? Was there any cause to elevate its importance above all the other cases, and witnesses that we were chasing, often with much greater ease and without unwanted complications of Government secrecy blocking the way?

The answer to these questions was simple. If what we had been individually told, by what were now several different sources, was even remotely near the truth, then Rendlesham Forest had played host to one of the most significant events in the history of this planet.

That, of course, had to be worthy of our attention.

It took month after frustrating month of interviewing, digging and chasing after clues. Most of the burden of this necessary but disheartening work fell on the shoulders of Brenda and Dot. This struggle continued in the face of great adversity; few would believe there could be any truth in what had been said. Even UFO investigators from other parts of Britain, the very people you might expect to grasp the significance of the claims, had decided that this just could not be. Instead, they chose to ridicule those who now sought the truth, and to find out what had really happened.

This is something we accept, as part of any attempt to uncover a plot of intrigue and mystery. Nobody can be blamed for finding this story difficult to believe. It most certainly is. But there comes a time when one has to suspend all belief and disbelief, and simply seek out the facts. Then, once these have been gathered together, there can be occasion to reach a personal decision regarding to their credibility or otherwise. But it is quite wrong to do this when confronted only by rumour and conflicting testimony.

There was only one road towards the truth. That was the road which we took.

Eventually, although it was to take years and not months, our hard work began to pay dividends. A comprehensible story emerged from the confusing mass of evidence. Military personnel, villagers, farmers, other civilians, and the authorities themselves, all had parts to play in the unfolding drama. But it finally needed the assistance of other UFO societies, in Britain and the USA, to provide the major breakthrough: Official acceptance!

Our rag-bag collection of stories and rumours suddenly found itself raised in status. Both the British and American Governments relented under the strain and admitted certain portions of the truth. As documents which explained what had happened were forced

'It was like something out of *Star Wars*', one witness had explained. But he was professing no gifted imagination, yearning to be free of dole queues, hunger and man's inhumanity to man. He was proclaiming all of this as truth. Alien contact had been established.

Certainly the last place one would expect to find a cosmic conspiracy, in order to protect this awesome fact, is in the leafy lanes of a wintry forest. But conspiracies are found in the most unlikely of places.

At first Brenda found herself constrained by the confidences she was under. For those who had whispered knew the risks they were taking, in breaching the heavy blanket that had been laid across the story. However, it is very hard for anyone to remain silent forever over such an incredible tale. And information did arrive from sources that were less respondent to Britain's iron chains of the 'Official Secrets Act'. She had a friend, called Dot Street, who lived a little further north along the Suffolk coast, away from the forest and the mystery it contained. And so, a few weeks after the new year had begun, Brenda decided to share what she knew.

Both were interested in UFOs, the key reason why Brenda had been told of this event. For the story certainly bears strong UFO elements. Being experienced investigators of such curious anomalies they could hardly allow the big one to get away. And so they concentrated all efforts; pushing, probing and battling away at all those who, for whatever reason, had decided that you and I were not fit to learn the truth about whatever had taken place in those woods. *It was just too important.*

Then, in February 1981, Jenny Rangles became a part of the mystery. Jenny, as a professional writer specialising in UFO themes, and as Director of Investigations from the British UFO Research Association (BUFORA), has many contacts. She often finds herself given information in the covert way that Brenda had. One of these channels brought to her the same kind of whispers about the same location and the same dates, generating a rumour of truly fantastic proportions.

And so we found our stories coming together. We did not alone have information about something so extraordinary it could not possibly have happened. We shared what seemed to be corroborative accounts of this same amazing incident. That fact on its own did not prove that we were dealing with the truth. But it certainly made us instantly aware that it was at least possible that this fascinating smokescreen may have a flicker of fire at its heart. That said, our determination to find this fire became even more intense.

IN the last few days of the year 1980 a very strange event took place. You may not be aware of this. It was not on your television news within minutes of the incident. It did not disturb your breakfast from the front pages of every newspaper. Indeed, as 1981 dawned and then wound its way towards conclusion, you probably had no idea that something momentous had shattered the tranquillity of Rendlesham Forest, a quiet and beautiful part of Britain's East Anglian countryside.

But it had.

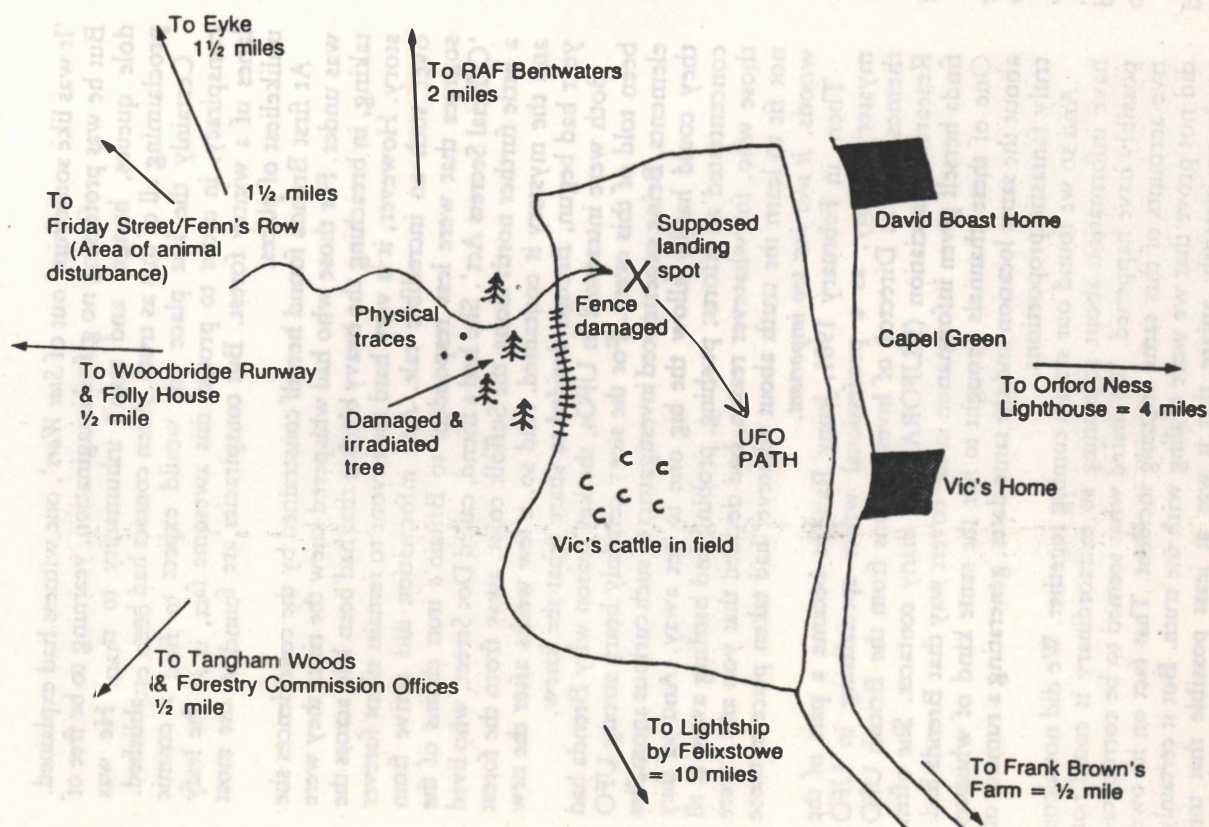
There was a very simple reason for your ignorance. It is known as Government secrecy.

When these amazing things transpired we, like you, were in the dark. We have no privileged access to the world's great secrets. Nor would we desire them. But when whispers began to reach our ears human curiosity demanded that we listen. Even so, we had no reason to suspect that we were toying with matters that would threaten the security of the free world.

And yet, very possibly, we were!

One of us, Brenda Butler, lived in a town close by the forest. She had many friends and contacts in the area, particularly at two major US Air Force bases which lurk in the shadows of the trees. Through these channels, and by way of trusted confidants, Brenda turned the whispers into an incessant nagging voice which eventually became so persistent it would haunt her life, and that of many others. We knew that those quiet woods, with their intrusive air force bases, masked a secret which told of something terrible and important that had just taken place.

What Brenda had discovered was like a plot from a science-fiction movie. For who could believe in tales of contact between the authorities of this world and the explorers of another, alien realm?



In mid-February 1981, as Brenda and Dot planned their investigation, they had to try to make sense out of the information at their disposal. This had come from diverse sources, although Steve Roberts was the most important since he professed to be a direct witness.

Distilling an account from what they had been told would provide the following:

Early in the morning of 27 December 1980 a local farmer had seen a bright light over Rendlesham Forest. It appeared to come down into the woods. Thinking it might be an aircraft he decided to make a phone call to the security police at Bentwaters.

Meanwhile, officers on patrol at the east gate, near to where the later damage was discovered on the runway lights, observed something pass over and disappear into the forest. Seeing curious lights through the trees they requested permission to go and investigate.

It is not clear whether two separate investigation teams went out, or whether the gate patrol responded both to their own observations and the farmer's report. But when they reached the wood, having had to stop their jeep part way and proceed on foot, they met a structured object on the ground. They went back to the base for assistance.

Upon receipt of this incredible story a veritable entourage set off for the forest. This included the Base Commander, Chief of Security, other security police, and several high-ranking officers. When they reached the spot where the UFO had come down it appeared to be in trouble, presumably having crash landed. Three entities were seen, apparently hovering in a shaft of light that projected from the underside of the object. They seemed to be making efforts to repair their stricken craft.

All officers except the Base Commander himself were ordered back and he alone went right up to where the aliens were. Although nobody seemed to know what then transpired it was generally agreed that communication, by way of sign language and apparently some sort of telepathy, ensued.

The craft was earthbound for over three hours, upon which it was repaired sufficiently to allow take off. This it did shakily at first, but soon shot away at tremendous speed, obviously now functioning normally. Several of the people from the base had photographed the object on the ground, and personnel from the USAF newspaper had also been present. The Base Commander confiscated all cameras and ordered the reporters to remain silent about what they had seen.

The next morning an A-10 aircraft had been sent to overfly the forest to check for radiation of various kinds. Traces were supposedly found.

Most of the specific detail had been given by all the people on base who had talked to Brenda, although they appeared to be repeating what they had heard. Steve Roberts had confirmed most of this, but had been reluctant to discuss two items. He would not describe the craft in any significant detail. Nor would he reveal

anything about the content of the conversation between the Base Commander and the aliens.

At the time Brenda and Dot had no idea of course how much of the story was true. But it is interesting to note that none of the witnesses had made any reference to the jeep suffering effects on its engine and lights, which is what the radar men had been told by the USAF officers taking their tape. It may be that this was either an exaggeration or misunderstanding by the officers who took the tape, who one presumes were not themselves witness to the events. As Steve Roberts had said, the jeep could not go all the way into the forest and was stopped by the terrain, not some mysterious effect, thus causing them to proceed on foot.

ALTHOUGH Brenda and Dot were not to know this, it seems that their visit to the base had repercussions. Those in command realised that the incident had not been stifled at birth, and that information about it had seeped through into the public domain. With two UFO investigators plainly telling them that they had no intention of giving up the case the possibility began to loom that the full story and the real truth might one day be told.

Of course, it was known that several people who had been involved in the events had not kept silent. Very quickly rumours had spread all over the base and it was through this route that a number of the accounts had come to Brenda. It seems that they had reached local villagers too, as a few were aware that 'something big' had happened around the turn of the year. But they did not know any details. Those who had bothered to ask were simply informed there had been an air crash. Whilst it may seem curious that anybody would accept this, especially as no word of it had appeared in the news, you must realise that for those living by an active military base the explanation was not unusual. Indeed, just a few days after the UFO event, an A-10 pilot had tragically lost his life when his jet crashed on a training flight from Bentwaters.

According to the story that had come from Lucius Farish in the USA, his witness had been sent home because of the amount of talking he had done about the landing. He was not to be the only witness to turn up in similar circumstances, feeling victimised at the way they had been treated when many people had talked. Brenda and Dot learnt of several other rumours around the base which told of disciplinary action against people who had been involved. And one source referred to their visit to Squadron Leader Moreland which led to an inquiry on base about who had leaked the account.

Another pattern developed over the ensuing months which was not at first recognised. Only piecing together of various story fragments allowed an understanding of an interesting tactic. Almost all the key personnel involved in the incident were very quickly split up and sent prematurely from their appointment at

Woodbridge, or Bentwaters, to various diverse military centres round the world. One of the most interesting moves was the rapid replacement of the Wing Commander, Gordon Williams, who was certainly the most crucial witness. He received a dramatic rise in rank to Brigadier General and returned to the USA.

ON the whole 1981 was a frustrating year for the investigation. Having begun in such style, with strong inferential evidence that the case was sound, Brenda and Dot soon found themselves running round in circles that led nowhere.

Everywhere they turned there was confusion. What was the actual date of the landing, the 27th or the 30th? Who had been involved? Was it true that a high-ranking officer had communicated with the aliens and, if so, was this Wing Commander Gordon Williams or somebody else? Why were there so many witnesses who were passing through the area to various lights and craft in the forest, and yet those who lived right by the supposed landing site refused to admit to anything?

In fact the question of the site bothered the investigators. Could they be sure they had been to the right place? Steve Roberts had provided a sketch which appeared to direct them from the East Gate to the same spot as indicated by the Forestry Commission. But he had always refused to lead the girls there. He said that he was happy in the Air Force and that if he was seen taking them to the spot he would place his job in jeopardy. Respecting this he was not further coerced.

However, Mr James, the forestry worker who had been so helpful and then clammed up, had showed them the site on the map in his office. This generally fitted in with the sketch made by Steve Roberts. It also explained why James had sent the strange visitors on New Year's Day to see David Boast. For his house was immediately adjacent to the field where the UFO was supposed to have landed. It was also the area where trees had been felled, again consistent with all the stories.

Yet there was nothing there to indicate that a UFO might have crashed just a few months before. It looked like any other section of

the forest. And there was a curious story which they had been given that referred to another location. This told how a mysterious crater had been found within a forest clearing early in January. Nobody knew where it had come from or what had caused it. But it seemed as if something had fallen from the sky into the ground.

WE had very little time to ponder this sudden turn in events. The days of calm were over and we were now into a period of activity unparalleled since the story had first been brought to Brenda's notice. Hardly had we come to accept that we now must integrate Ted Conrad's account into the melting pot, when yet another new witness materialised. Once again he surfaced in America.

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM : GUY BUTLER, SAC, WASHINGTON
SUBJECT: FLYING SAUCERS
INFORMATION CONCERNING

DATE: March 22, 1950

Following information was furnished to SA [redacted]

An investigator for the Air Force stated that three so-called flying saucers had been recovered in New Mexico. They were described as being circular in shape with raised centers, approximately 50 feet in diameter. Each one was occupied by three bodies of human shape but only 3 feet tall, dressed in metallic cloth of a very fine texture. Each body was bandaged in a manner similar to the black-out suits used by speed flyers and test pilots.

According to Mr. [redacted] informant, the saucers were found in New Mexico due to the fact that the Government has a very high-powered radar set-up in that area and it is believed the radar interferes with the controlling mechanism of the saucers.

No further evaluation was attempted by SA [redacted] concerning the above.

RECORDED - 3
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162-83894-209

MAR 28 1950

51 MAR 29 1950

(A)

Just one of the hundreds of documents released by US security agencies when pressured by the Freedom of Information Act. This memo from SAC, Washington, to the FBI, dated 22 March 1950, records a UFO crash with dead alien occupants. The details of these entities and the circumstances of the event have much in common with the 1980 sky crash in Rendlesham Forest. Note the censorship of the released copy. The amount here is very mild compared with many other released papers.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20330

13 Jan 81

TO : CU
SUBJECT: Unexplained Lights

RAF/CC

1. Early in the morning of 21 Dec 80 (approximately 0300L), two USAF security police patrolmen saw unusual lights outside the back gate at RAF Woodbridge. Thinking an aircraft might have crashed or been forced down, they called for permission to go outside the gate to investigate. The on-duty flight chief responded and allowed three patrolmen to proceed on foot. The individuals reported observing a strange glowing object in the forest. The object was described as being metallic in appearance and triangular in shape, approximately two to three meters across the base and approximately two meters high. It illuminated the entire forest with a white light. The object itself had a pulsing red light on top and a bank(s) of blue lights underneath. The object was hovering on its own. As the patrolmen approached the object, it maneuvered through the trees and disappeared. At this time the animals on a nearby farm went into a frenzy. The object was briefly sighted approximately an hour later near the back gate.

2. The next day, three depressions 1 1/2" deep and 7" in diameter were found where the object had been sighted on the ground. The following night (29 Dec 80) the area was checked for radiation. Beta/gamma readings of 0.1 milliroentgens were recorded with peak readings in the three depressions and near the center of the triangle formed by the depressions. A nearby tree had moderate (.05-.07) readings on the side of the tree toward the depressions.

3. Later in the night a red sun-like light was seen through the trees. It moved about and pulsed. At one point it appeared to throw off glowing particles and then broke into five separate white objects and then disappeared. Immediately thereafter, three star-like objects were noticed in the sky, two objects to the north and one to the south, all of which were about 10° off the horizon. The objects were moving in sharp angular movements and displayed red, green and blue lights. The objects to the north appeared to be elliptical through an 8-12 power lens. They then turned to full circles. The objects to the north remained in the sky for an hour or more. The object to the south was visible for two or three hours and beamed down a stream of light from time to time. Numerous individuals, including the undersigned, witnessed the activities in paragraphs 2 and 3.

CHARLES I. HALT, Lt Col, USAF
Deputy Base Commander

Document 48

The memo sent—on behalf of its author, Lt. Col. Charles Halt—by base commander, Donald Moreland to the British MOD. It describes the events of December 1980 in Rendlesham Forest and in and around RAF Bentwaters/Woodbridge. The document was denied British investigators between January 1981 and June 1983, when it was released by the US Government through the Freedom of Information Act. The US authorities say they obtained it from the British MOD. The MOD deny this!

U.K EYES 'B'



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HS

Telephone (Direct Dialling) 01-219 [redacted]

(Switchboard) 01-218 9000

Dear [redacted],

As you know, OSI has completed a report on the landing of a craft of unknown origin creved by several entities near RAF Bentwaters on the night of December 29/30 1980.

Interestingly, OSI reports that the entities were approximately 1 1/2 metres tall, wore what appeared to be nylon-coated pressure suits, but no helmets. Conditions on the night were misty, giving the appearance that the entities were hovering above ground level.

Tape recordings were made on which the entities are heard to speak in an electronically synthesised version of English, with a strong American accent. Similar transmissions intercepted irregularly by NSA since 1975. (See attached - Flag A)

According to OSI, entities had claw-like hands with three digits and an opposable thumb.

Despite original reports (Flags B - G), OSI said the craft was not damaged but landed deliberately as part of a series of visits to SAC bases in USA and Europe. Reports that craft was repaired by US servicemen or was taken on to the base are not confirmed by OSI.

Landing is not considered a defence issue in view of the overt peaceful nature of the contact, but investigations by ICS are to be continued on [redacted] authority. Precautionary plan for counter-information at a local level involving [redacted] and a [redacted], is strongly recommended.

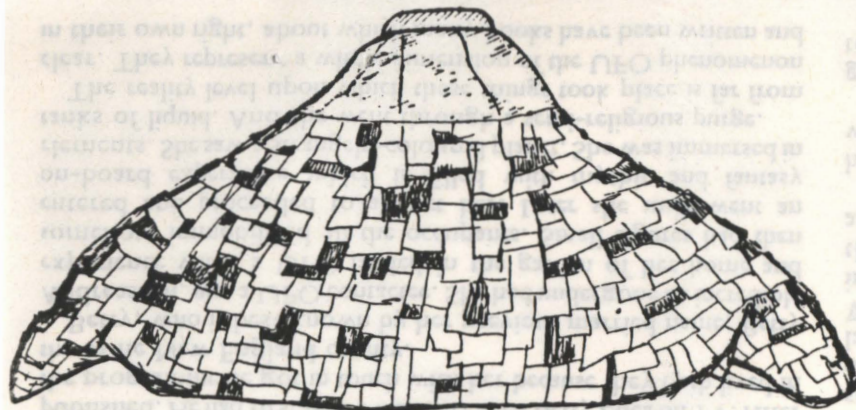
Sincerely

This anonymous memo was sent, as a photocopy to the research team in early 1984, obviously as an intended 'real' leaked document. We have investigated it, as we have all other pieces of information discussed in this book, and our conclusion is that it is a deliberate fake by certain parties, whose identities are strongly suspected by us.

There are a number of valid reasons for believing that this is a hoax. For one thing, the MOD letter-head is of a style not used on public letters until late 1983. Second the contents give evidence of knowing certain things not known publicly, but known to the originators.

On 19 June 1984, after several attempts, Andrew Mathewson, new head of D S 8 at the MOD, wrote to Harry Harris calling the memo 'very interesting' but adding 'I have to say it is a forgery and probably intended as a joke.'

This hoax has clearly been planned to test us or, more likely, to impugn our credibility should we fall for the trick. We call their bluff.



The craft which appeared after the light explosion on 30 December 1980, according to Art Wallace. (Sketched under his direction by Betty Luca.)

like a delayed reaction. Wallace says they were all baffled by the independent life this seemed to give to their inanimate shadows.

Wallace and a couple of colleagues decided to walk closer to investigate this effect. But suddenly a small green light appeared on the surface of the object above one of their shadows. It then bounced from one shadow to the other, in a fast motion. He says it was like a spot on a TV video game. This is the last thing he could recall. He next found himself on his bed in the barracks, fully dressed and covered in mud up to his knees. It was nearly 5 am. He asked a friend what time he had come in and was told about 4 am. He was tired and his memory hazy. He had no clear recollection of anything having happened.

In other words, Wallace is suggesting that he was 'hypnotised' into forgetting the events, some of which he still has no conscious recall. He only remembered these details later on during 30 December as he went about his usual duties.

That afternoon he was called in to see the Base Commander. Present were other officers and security men who had been in the forest the night before. The commander told them, firmly but politely, that they must not discuss what had happened since it had a high security level. But nobody explained to them what had happened.

They were then taken to another room where plain-clothes men interrogated each of them in turn. Wallace was questioned for an hour. He had the impression that they were civilians, possibly CIA. They were American. Their attitude was more forceful and they made it extremely plain what the consequences would be if he told his tale—a prison sentence.

Later he was shown a movie that contained clips of film. In these UFOs were depicted in various military situations such as the Korean War. The quality was far beyond any he had ever seen on TV before. In one scene a MIG fighter met a disc-like object and the MIG fell to the ground in flames. After the movie they were

told that what they had seen was top secret. As if to further emphasise this he was made to sign a form agreeing not to talk about the affair.

Before being released Wallace says he and the others were checked over for radiation on their clothes. They were also given a number to call at the same time every day to report on their whereabouts. After this he was allowed to go.

Over the next few days he came to learn the full extent of what had actually happened. He heard that people who had been on the far side of the object from where he was claimed they had seen small alien creatures. He was also told that false traces were laid in the forest and clues given so that people might find them. Stories about alien contacts were also invented. The hope was that these would make the whole thing seem so fantastic that nobody would bother believing it and the real truth would never come out.

Art Wallace was far from happy with the pressure under which he had been put, and had told his family. He was young and impressionable. It became known that he had talked and he was severely reprimanded. A few months later, after being sent home to the USA, he was given an honourable discharge from the Air Force.

Not surprisingly, Larry Fawcett needed some convincing that this incredible story was true. He asked Wallace for some proof. In response he was given the names of everybody that the airman could remember having been in the forest with him. He was also given the transfer papers that announced Wallace's assignment to Bentwaters, giving dates and duties. These certainly showed that he had been on base in December 1980.

WE knew that there was little we could do to force the MOD to talk. Harry Harris, our legal adviser, had no steps to suggest other than those we were following. But with the background of intrigue and political scandal and the blunt instrument of the Freedom of Information Act in the USA, Larry Fawcett and Barry Greenwood were in a far stronger position.

During April 1983 a Freedom of Information search request went to the Department of the Air Force in New York. This was to obtain any, or all, documents appertaining to the alleged incidents in the Bentwaters/Woodbridge area. A response came swiftly. It was dated 28 April and signed by Colonel Henry J. Cochran.

Colonel 'Jack' Cochran is, as already stated at the beginning of this book, current Base Commander at Bentwaters. He was not in charge at the time of the events, Sam Morgan was. But Cochran arrived soon after and so presumably had some knowledge of the affair.

His reply came in two parts:

1. Reference your letter dated 8 April 1983, requesting information about unknown aircraft activity near RAF Bentwaters. There was allegedly some strange activity near RAF Bentwaters at the approximate time in question, but not on land under United States Air Force jurisdiction and therefore no official investigation was conducted by the 81st Tactical Fighter Wing. Thus, the records you

requested do not exist.

2. Regarding the other statements in your letter; no photos of the alleged 'craft' were taken by the Air Force. Also there is no requirement under the Freedom of Information Act to create a record for the purpose of fulfilling a request. I can assure you that if there were such records we would provide them to you.

Notice that this letter dates from about the same time as Kathleen McCollom was writing to Harry Harris from the base. She also said

there were no records. But further implied that there was no incident. Cochran, in a similar way as the British MOD had just done to Jenny, but in slightly more restrained fashion, was here at least acknowledging that the rumours had substance.

When Larry Fawcett received this partial breakthrough he got together with colleagues at CAUS to plan who they should next approach. The best tactic in such cases, they had learnt from past experience, was to spread the net wide. There were so many possible locations for files about military UFO encounters that one just had to write to as many as you could think of.

The matter had complications in the sense that the event had taken place in a foreign country. But there were still procedures to follow. The concept behind a blanket attack, on so many potential sources at once, was this. Before a directive could be issued about policy on any specific case somebody, somewhere, with the thoughts of 'Freedom of Information' uppermost in their minds, might accidentally release a document which, under normal circumstances, would have been withheld until a court could sort out its status. It had worked before. It was reasonable to think it might work now.

On 20 June, Bob Todd, one of the key administrators in CAUS who had masterminded the plan, wrote excitedly to Larry Fawcett. He said, 'Attached are the cover letter and UFO document from the 513th Combat Support Group. It has to be one of the best and most interesting UFO documents I have ever read. We were *really* lucky to get a copy.'

Bob could hardly contain himself. For the scheme had succeeded in a way they had scarcely expected. It was thought that if anything was forced out it would be more of the same, such as Cochran's letter to Fawcett or the MOD response to Jenny. Anything beyond that would be a bonus. But knowing the right possible sources within the Air Force had led them to the 513th, which it was felt might have a record but might be divorced enough from the front line to possibly slip and send something out.

The covering letter to Bob Todd came from Colonel Peter W. Bent, Commander of the 513th in New York. Bent began, '... As you may know, the 513th Combat Support Group provides document management services for Headquarters, Third Air Force. After extensive effort, we are able to successfully answer your four separately directed requests for information concerning unexplained lights on 27 December 1980.'

What this means is that the 513th have accrued the various independently directed requests about the case and Bent has been

The first we knew of this was a couple of weeks after the *Omni* article had appeared. Jenny received a letter from Barry Greenwood, a UFO investigator from Massachusetts, with whom she had corresponded in the past. He had read her *FSR* articles on the case and wanted to say that he and a colleague, Larry Fawcett, had uncovered a further eye witness. He sent a photocopy of a statement made by this man, to whom the pseudonym Art Wallace had been given.

Barry and Larry were co-authoring a book entitled *Clear Intent*, which was to summarise the results of long, legal battles between the US Government and a private organisation to which they belonged. This organisation CAUS (Citizens Against UFO Secrecy) was using the Freedom of Information Act to retrieve once secret documents about UFOs, known to exist in the files of many of the nation's security agencies. Much fascinating material had been obtained in this way.

Barry and Jenny exchanged information about the Rendlesham Forest case, swapping documents obtained on both sides of the Atlantic. Meanwhile Larry Fawcett, a US Police Lieutenant from Connecticut, began phoning Dot. These calls became such a regular feature of the next few months that the phone bills of each rocketed to horrific levels. But it was essential because so much information was emerging.

A real transatlantic exchange had been developed. This was perhaps the first UFO investigation where such long-range liaison has been used to dramatic effect.

At first we were suspicious of Art Wallace, whose real name we were shortly to be told. We thought he might have contacted Barry and Larry after reading Conrad's claims in *Omni*, and so could have made up a story based on that. It was less important if he had read *FSR* or not—although Wallace was to insist he had *not* read it. This is because *FSR* never contained a detailed description of events, but was merely an expression of the sequence of happenings as was then understood. However, there were features in what Wallace had to say which closely aligned with Colonel Conrad's assertions.

It transpired that these suspicions were unfounded. Art Wallace had established his rapport well before the *Omni* article had been published. He had first seen a woman called Betty Luca on TV. After the programme he got in touch with her because they both lived in the same New England county.

Betty, who is best known by her previous married name, Betty Andreasson, was a UFO contactee. She had undergone an incredible experience when a UFO landed in the garden of her home and somehow immobilised all the occupants. Small figures had then entered and proceeded to abduct her. Later she underwent an on-board experience which is filled with mythic and fantasy elements. She saw a strangely-coloured planet. She was immersed in tanks of liquid. And she went through a semi-religious purge.

The reality level upon which these things took place is far from clear. They represent a whole dimension of the UFO phenomenon in their own right, about which many books have been written and

countless theories suggested. Ideas range from repressed images of birth trauma, psychological wars between the ego and the id, real extraterrestrial contacts, and incomprehensible meetings with some alien phenomenon which the mind can only embody in symbolic terms. Nobody knows which, if any, of these suggestions are correct. But we do know that many people have suffered in the way that Betty has. Something unusual is going on.

Experienced UFO investigator Ray Fowler has written two books about the Andreasson case, which is one of the best investigated in the history of such phenomena. Larry Fawcett had aided him in some of the later stages of the work for the second volume.

Art Wallace had been impressed with Betty Luca's sincerity and her description of the aliens, about three feet tall and with large heads. This rang a bell. He told her about his own adventure while in

England and she immediately realised that Barry and Larry would be interested in the case. So a meeting was set up. Art gave some information to Larry Fawcett over the phone, but said he preferred to wait for a face to face meeting before telling all.

That meeting took place and this is the story Art Wallace offered. He had not long been transferred to England. As a 19-year-old he was contracted to Bentwaters as a security policeman. It was the early hours of 30 December, about 1 am he thinks. This means that, if Conrad is to be believed, the object had already been in the forest for about two and a half hours.

Wallace was on duty at the flight line when a jeep pulled up beside him. A sergeant and a lieutenant were inside and they told him to join them as they had to drive over to the motor pool. On the way here Wallace noticed that all kinds of animals, mainly deer and rabbits, were running out of the woods in a very strange way. This was something he had never seen before and it concerned him. The place where this was taking place was the Friday Street/Fenn's Rows area, on the fringes of Rendlesham Forest, and between Bentwaters and the landing site. The place where Brenda and Dot later met the man who was bothered about the dead animals there.

At the motor pool Wallace and the sergeant picked up a gas-powered light-all. These are big spotlights mounted on trailers which are used to illuminate areas where there is no electricity supply. They also refuelled the jeep, as they had to pick up some officers on their way out of the base. Later, as they approached the landing site, the jeep's engine kept failing and the officers berated Wallace and his colleagues for not refuelling as ordered. They insisted that they had, but the interference continued. However, they finally managed to get most of the way before disembarking and proceeding on foot.

Here, you will note, is the first time interference to a jeep's engine has been mentioned; other than the story given to the radar men when the radar trackings were taken.

With the trailer mount in tow the jeep left the Bentwaters main gate and met other vehicles in a small convoy. This drove slowly towards Rendlesham Forest and a location not immediately evident

to Wallace, who was not yet familiar with the locality. As they drove along he could hear constant discussions over the radio communicator, mentioning several officers by name and with references to OSI (which he took to be the USAF 'Office of Special Investigations').

Eventually they reached a staging point in the forest, having

passed a large number of military men on the way. Wallace insists some of these were *British* military personnel. One man was crying and in great distress, being tended by a military officer. At this point the young airman was imagining the worst. He had visions of World War Three having started and his first thought, when he came to understand that something was down in the forest, was that there had been a landing, perhaps by paratroopers.

But his fear turned more into confusion as he was ordered to leave his weapon at the staging post and move ahead with four other men, including a Captain whom they had picked up at the Bentwaters motor pool.

They headed towards a clearing which seems to have been the field beside the Boast house. A brightness emerged from here and the sound of helicopters could be heard above. On the edge of the field was a large movie camera. This was pointing towards something in the field.

The object Wallace now faced, along with dozens of other people, was about fifty feet in diameter, so he estimates. He describes it as like a 'transparent aspirin tablet'. It was stationary, but seemed to be hovering slightly off the ground. It pulsed with a bright but misty yellow glow which emerged from within.

Groups of security men were all round the object, which neither moved nor displayed any sign of life. Some of the men went close enough to it to touch the object. He saw several other cameras clicking away at the fantastic sight.

A man nearby had a radio communicator and over this he heard a voice, which seemed to be one of the helicopter pilots, call out . . . 'Here it comes!' They all looked up and saw a bright red light approaching from behind the trees and flying straight towards them.

The red light descended over the 'aspirin' and then, maintaining total silence, 'exploded' into a fantastic burst of multiple colours. The flash was so bright it blinded him for a moment. When he looked again the aspirin and the red light had gone. Nobody had seen this happen. But in their place was a large metallic craft!

The craft was a domed disc with intricate patterns on its surface. Two little flaps, like miniature wings, came from each side. It glowed but shadows were cast on it, as if some parts of it were raised or lumpy. The men also noticed how their shadows fell onto the surface, in exaggerated spooky shapes thanks to the brilliant light-alls, which they had brought and set up. As they moved towards the object their shadow moved, but out of phase. It was

designated the person to answer them. We can only speculate as to what happened in the six weeks or more that it took him to reply, during which he was presumably making his 'extensive effort'.

Did the authorities have to decide what they could release? Some have even suggested they put something together to be released. But it does not appear likely that what came out was a fake, in any sense of the word. The wording of the released document is so close to that given by the MOD in their letter to Jenny two months previously, and in Squadron Leader Moreland's statement to *Omni* four months earlier, that these must have been based upon possession of the file in question. However, it is hard to see why it should take any 'extensive effort' to track down the report concerned. For Moreland told *Omni* he had sent it to the MOD, for the US Air Force, and Cochran, despite what his letter to Larry Fawcett may or may not suggest, was as Base Commander definitely aware of the report's existence.

It should therefore have been a relatively easy task to obtain the file. However, Bent did say in his reply to Bob Todd, 'It might interest you to know that the US Air Force had no longer retained a copy of the 13 January 1981 letter written by Col Charles I. Halt. The Air Force file copy had been properly disposed of in accordance with Air Force Regulations. Fortunately, through diligent inquiry and the gracious consent of Her Majesty's Government, the British Ministry of Defence and the Royal Air Force, the US Air Force was provided a copy for you . . .'

It is certainly fascinating to wonder why it should have been decided to destroy the USAF version of the report, and under what regulations, especially as less than two and a half years had transpired. But, of course, even more fascinating here is the decision by the MOD to release a copy to the USA, presumably fully appreciating it was destined for a UFO investigator. This is after a long protracted effort by the authors to get this by the much more direct route of the MOD itself!

The 13 January 1981 document is in the form of a letter/report sent on behalf of the Department of the Airforce (USA) to RAF/CC on the stated subject: UNEXPLAINED LIGHTS.

This is a curiously low-key title and the one-page report itself is very brief. It is divided into three paragraphs.

1. Early in the morning of 27 December 1980 (approximately 0300L) (i.e. 3 am) two USAF security patrolmen saw unusual lights outside the back gate at RAF Woodbridge. Thinking an aircraft might have crashed or been forced down, they called for permission to go outside the gate to investigate. The on-duty flight chief responded

and allowed three patrolmen to proceed *on foot*. The individuals reported seeing a strange glowing object in the forest. The object was described as being metallic in appearance and triangular in shape, approximately two to three metres (8 feet) across the base and two metres high. It illuminated the entire forest with a white light. The object itself had a pulsing red light on top and a bank(s) of blue lights underneath. The object was hovering or on legs. As the patrolmen approached the object it maneuvered through the trees and disappeared. At this time the animals on a nearby farm went into a frenzy. The object was briefly sighted approximately an hour later

near the back gate.

2. The next day, three depressions 1 1/7" deep and 7" in diameter were found where the object had been sighted on the ground. The following night (29 December 80) the area was checked for radiation. Beta/gamma readings of 0.1 milliroentgens were recorded with peak readings in the three depressions and near the centre of the triangle formed by the depressions. A nearby tree had moderate (.05-.07) readings on the side of the tree towards the depressions.
3. Later in the night a red sun-like light was seen through the trees. It moved about and pulsed. At one point it appeared to throw off glowing particles and then broke into five separate white objects and then disappeared. Immediately thereafter, three star-like objects were noticed in the sky, two objects to the north and one to the south, all of which were about 10 degrees off the horizon. The objects moved rapidly in sharp angular movements and displayed red, green and blue lights. The objects to the north appeared to be elliptical; through an 8-12 power lens. They then turned to full circles. The objects to the north remained in the sky for an hour or more. The object to the south was visible for two or three hours and beamed down a stream of light from time to time. Numerous individuals, including the undersigned (i.e. Lt Col Charles Halt himself) witnessed the activities in paragraphs 2 and 3.

It is easy to see why Bob Todd was excited. For here was an account of a landing of a small craft that took off from a confined forest space when approached by servicemen. In its wake were symmetrical traces and radiation. Plus there was a second encounter witnessed by many, including a Lt Col who called himself 'Deputy Base Commander'.

What was hard to understand was how the USAF could dismiss this and destroy their own copy of the letter so quickly. Or how, as Cochran had put it, 'no official investigation was conducted'. True enough, the forest was on British soil, but the airmen were all Americans and apparently on duty responding to what they considered an alert situation. Surely there had to be some sort of investigation?

BY August 1983 we had many peripheral witnesses, both civilian and military. Each had pieces to add to the puzzle. A prime example was the electrician who had fixed the runway lights. And there were the many civilians who had seen something odd happening in and around the forest, UFO sightings of varying strangeness. Gordon Levett was probably the best of these people because he had undergone a close encounter.

Apart from this testimony there were what we might call indirect witnesses. People of repute from the base who had been willing to attest to the strangeness of the goings on, or pass on second-hand data about what they had understood from the time in question. Colonel Conrad was especially important here, as was to a lesser extent Squadron Leader Moreland.

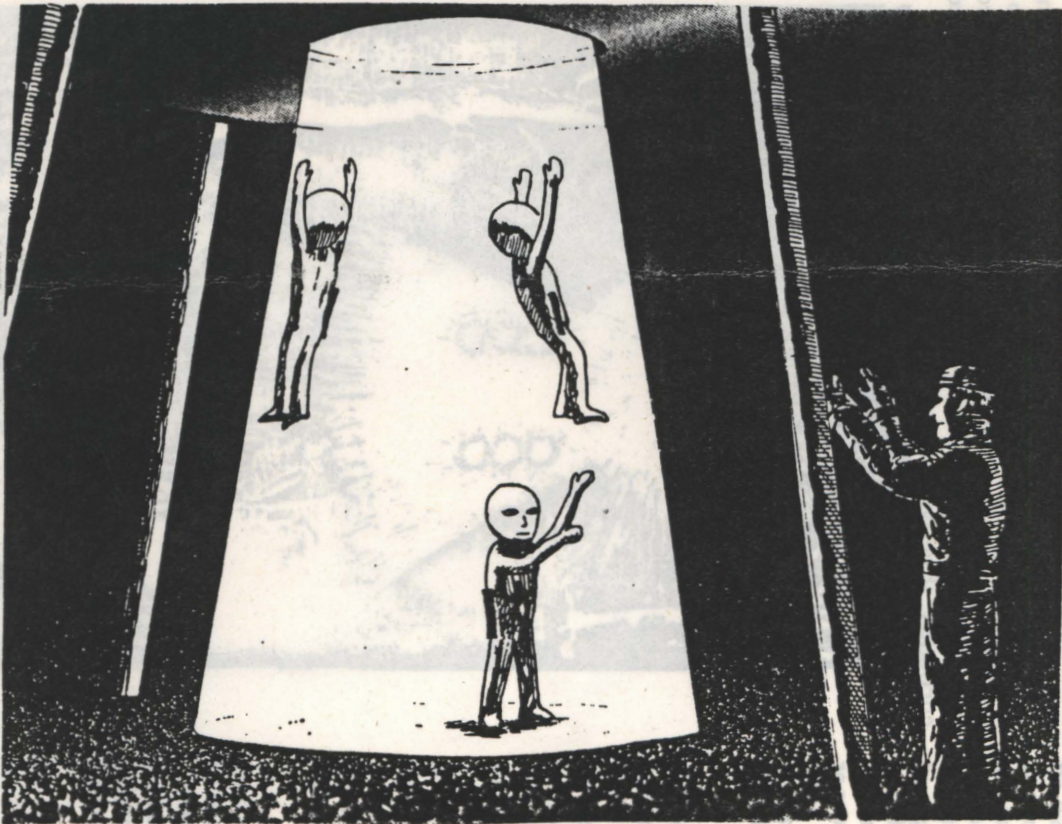
However, it is safe to say that the direct military witnesses are probably those which the average reader will regard as the cornerstone of the case. At this stage we had three to whom we had made

open and protracted inquiries. They were all co-operating to some extent. Whilst there were a couple of other possible direct witnesses, we would only be happy in putting any weight behind these three.

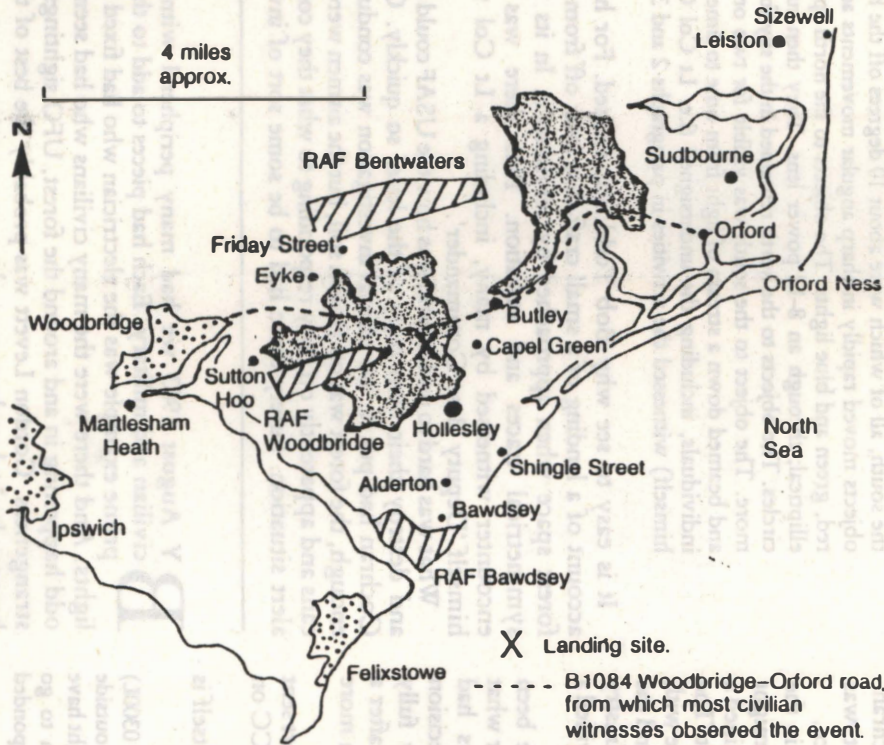
They were, of course, Steve Roberts, who seems to have been one of the five involved on the initial 27 December sighting. The others were Lt Col Halt, who claimed to have seen the traces and radiation left by the first events but was also a direct witness to the second sighting of 30 December. We had Art Wallace, whose testimony was more difficult to understand. He seemed to be referring to the first sighting, and yet everything suggested—including the date he offered—that he was witness to the second encounter, if he was witness to anything.



A 'Deep throat' source provided this sketch, based on the contents of the Files of Colonel Halt. It describes his view of the light explosion prior to the arrival of the craft moving around the forest. 29/30 December 1980.



Steve Roberts' view of the alien contact with the Base Commander.

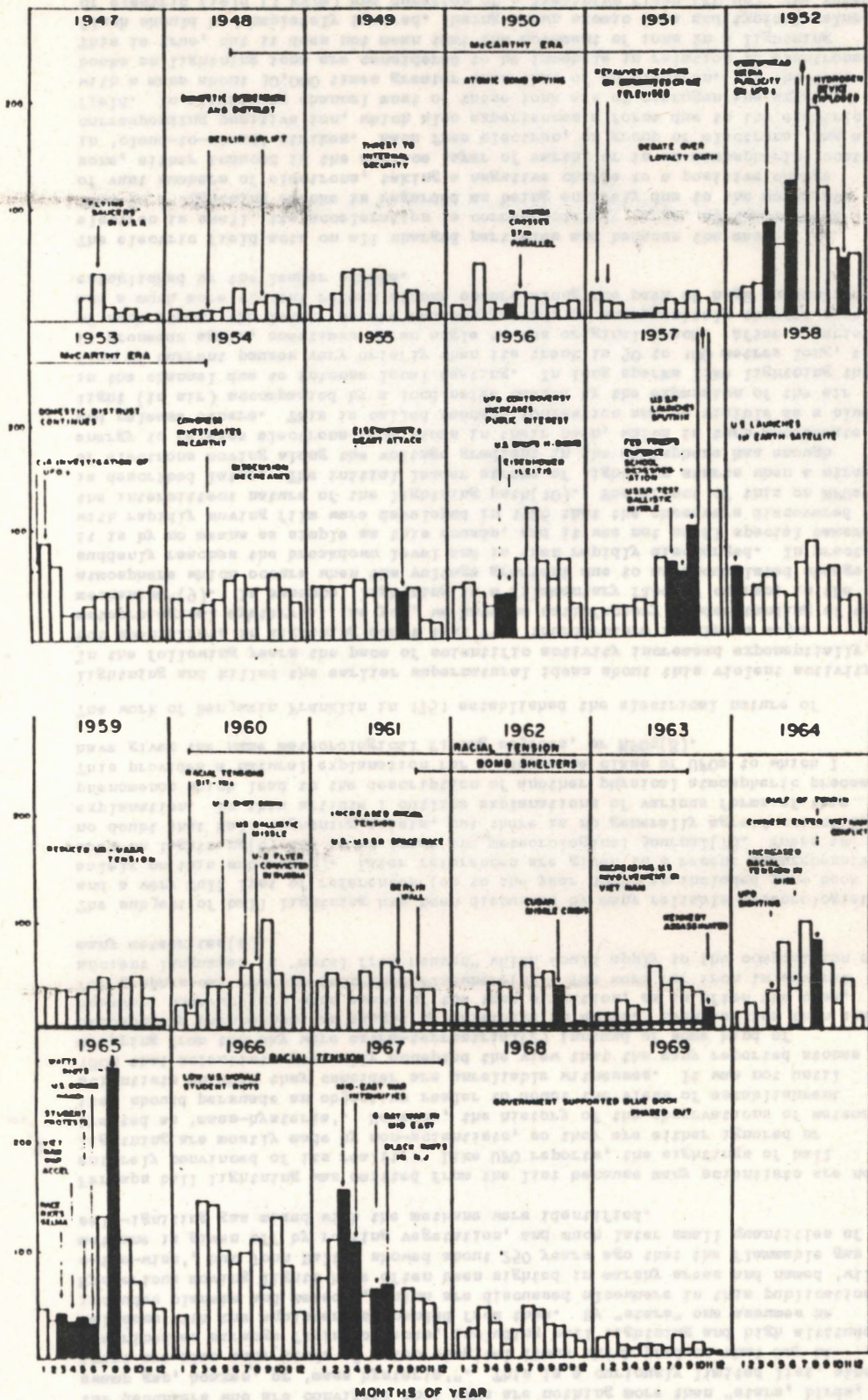


Rendlesham Forest and its immediate surroundings.

this book is well worth the read and is highly recommended.

JOHN.W.AUCHETTL

OFFICIAL UFO SIGHTINGS REPORTED BY U.S. AIR FORCE



Official UFO Sightings Reported by U.S. Air Force.

Earth 'heading' for a magnetic flip

THE earth's magnetic field may be about to flip direction, according to a geologist from the University of Minnesota. And if the flip actually comes, it could play havoc with compasses and the weather for as long as 2000 years.

Scientists have known for a long time that the magnetic field does flip occasionally. The evidence comes from sediments laid down during different geological epochs.

The direction the field was pointing in at the time of the rock's formation governs the way the rock looks under a microscope.

The new evidence comes from sediments in a Minnesota lake

bottom. The magnetic field has not changed for 700,000 years, but its strength has halved over the past 4000.

This, according to the geologist, Mr Subir Bannerjee, may be the prelude to reversal.

If it did happen, magnetic compasses would be useless for navigation during the change and the protection the field gives us from solar radiation could be altered, perhaps causing changes in the climate.

Finally, animals that use magnetism for navigation — birds, fish and bees for example — may be utterly confused.

— John Brandt





SCUFORI

29 Lethbridge Road, Swindon, Wilts. SN1 4BY.

Tel. (0793) 692797 or 764003.

NATURAL TERRESTRIAL PHENOMENA LIKELY TO BE REPORTED AS UFOS

by Eric W. Crew, B.Sc., F.I.E.E., F.R.A.S.

Note. The calculations on the movement of a nitrogen ion in an electric field are based on the following atomic data:

Molecular mass of nitrogen 2.34×10^{-26} kg

Charge of 1e 1.6×10^{-19} C

Force on 1e in field of $1 \text{ kV m}^{-1} = 1.6 \times 10^{-16}$ N

Theoretical acceleration = $\frac{1.6 \times 10^{-16}}{2.34 \times 10^{-26}} = 6.84 \times 10^9 \text{ ms}^{-2}$

Unimpeded velocity in $70 \mu\text{s} = 6.84 \times 10^9 \times 70 \times 10^{-6} = 4.8 \times 10^5 \text{ ms}^{-1}$
 $= 480 \text{ km s}^{-1}$

Distance travelled ($\frac{1}{2}vt$) = 17m

If the final velocity during the discharge is limited to 330 ms^{-1} , the distance travelled in $70 \mu\text{s}$ is $330 \times 35 \times 10^{-6} \times 10^3 \text{ mm} = 12 \text{ mm}$

These values would be increased for ions with multiple charges and for longer duration of the total lightning discharge.

In a comprehensive survey of the literature of ufology¹, Joseph A. Blake refers to the debunkers who are convinced that UFOs are nothing more than "stars, birds, swamp gas, hoaxes, or 'mass hysteria'". This is a curiously limited list, since there are also many kinds of meteorological items which produce what may be described as strange flying objects, including ball lightning and high altitude balloons with the equipment suspended from them. By "stars" one assumes he includes planets and meteors, which are discussed elsewhere in this publication. Mysterious moving lights have often been sighted in marshy areas and named 'will-o-the-wisp', but John Dalton showed about 250 years ago that the flammable gas methane is given off by rotting vegetation, and much later small quantities of self-igniting gas mixed with the methane were identified.

Perhaps ball lightning was omitted from the list because many scientists are not entirely convinced of its reality. Like UFO reports, the sightings of ball lightning are mostly made by non-scientists, so they are either ignored or treated as 'mass-hysteria'. However, the history of the observations of meteorites should persuade an objective reader to doubt the views of establishment scientists on what they consider are unreliable witnesses. It was not until 1803 that scientists generally accepted the view that the many reported stones dropping from the sky were extra-terrestrial⁽²⁾ instead of some kind of atmospheric phenomenon, as taught by Aristotle in 400BC. Even earlier than that, however, some writers were aware of the true situation, as is often the case, for geophysical reasons described elsewhere⁽³⁾. The word for iron in several ancient languages is "metal from heaven" which would apply to the composition of many meteorites⁽⁴⁾.

The subject of ball lightning has been discussed by many reliable meteorologists and a very full list of references (up to the year 1969) is included in a book solely on this subject⁽⁵⁾. Later references are given in a recent comprehensive book on lightning⁽⁶⁾ and in at least one meteorological journal⁽⁷⁾. There is no doubt that ball lightning exists, but there is no generally agreed scientific explanation. In this article I outline explanations of various forms of this phenomenon which lead to the description of another physical atmospheric process. This provides a natural explanation for a separate class of UFOs to which I have given the name meteorological flying objects, or MFOs⁽⁸⁾.

The work of Benjamin Franklin in 1751 established the electrical nature of

lightning and killed the earlier supernatural ideas about this violent activity. In the following years the pace of scientific activity increased exponentially, but specialists in lightning admit that "the thunderstorm remains a major meteorological mystery... As yet, we have no satisfactory understanding of the mechanism"⁽⁹⁾. In essence, lightning is a filamentary flow of current in the atmosphere which occurs when the voltage gradient due to an accumulated charge suddenly reaches the breakdown level and is then rapidly discharged. In practice, it is by no means as simple as this sounds, and it was not until special cameras with rapidly moving film were developed in 1926 that the observers discovered the intermittent nature of the lightning path⁽¹⁰⁾. The effect of this on MFOs is described later. The initial leader stroke of lightning starts when a stream of electrons moving along the voltage gradient in the atmosphere has enough energy to release electrons from atoms in their path, which in turn accelerate and release others. This is called cascade ionisation and is visible as a blue light (in air) accompanied by a loud noise caused by the expansion of the air in the channel due to intense local heating. In long sparks like lightning this flow of current pauses very briefly when its track is 50 to 100 metres long, then it proceeds again, sometimes at an angle to the original track. After a series of such steps, the leader stroke reaches ground, or an oppositely charged zone, and a much more violent return stroke occurs along the path of high conductivity established by the leader stroke.

The electric field acts on all charged particles and because the mass of an electron is small, its acceleration is correspondingly large, so the current flow in a lightning stroke is regarded as being entirely due to the movements of vast numbers of electrons, taking a negative charge to a positive charge zone, either induced in the surface layer of earth, or in an atmospheric location in 'cloud-to-cloud' strikes. Each free electron, or group of electrons, has a corresponding positive ion, which also experiences a force due to the electric field. In lightning channel most of these ions are of nitrogen and oxygen, with a mass about 30,000 times greater than that of an electron. In the text books on lightning ions are considered to be immobile in relation to electrons. This is true, but it does not mean that the movement of ions in a lightning flash should be completely ignored. Using known atomic data and typical values of electric field (1 kV/m) and duration of a lightning flash ($70 \mu\text{s}$), the theoretical final velocity of an unimpeded nitrogen ion would be 480 km/sec and it would travel 17 m along the channel.

In fact, an ion would not behave in this way except in a vacuum, because its movement is impeded by neutral atoms and encounters with the stream of electrons and a few negative ions travelling in the opposite direction. It does not seem unreasonable, however, to assume that the final velocity of the ions is at least 330 m/sec (that of sound at MTF) and their movement along the channel would then be only 12 mm. This supposition is likely as the channel contains a long string of positive ions and as soon as they are formed they would receive a powerful kick in the same direction along the channel by the electric field. In the rare cases where this column of hot gas is reasonably straight, it would then be propelled through the atmosphere like a lance by its kinetic energy even after all the thunderstorm charge is dissipated.

This suggested process is supported by several reported incidents, the most impressive of which is an observation by Dr L.H.Worth, described in several published papers(11), so only a brief account is given here. On a July afternoon in 1971 Dr Worth was on the summit of Puy Mary and he saw lightning below him, about 3 km away. A few seconds after hearing thunder he felt a blast of hot air so strong he had to lean on it. This could only have been caused by a longitudinal jet of air from the lightning channel, as the lateral expansion is rapidly dissipated in the surrounding atmosphere.

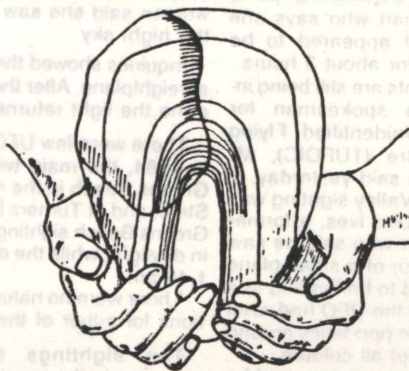
A jet of this type contains water vapour trapped in the lightning channel. If it is projected high into the atmosphere where the temperature is well below zero, the water vapour would be visible as a streak of mist travelling in a roughly parabolic trajectory. If this is seen from a high flying aircraft, particularly in early morning or evening sunlight, it would be very difficult for the observer to estimate its distance and speed. Any charged particles remaining in the jet stream would be deflected in the Earth's magnetic field into a helical path, adding to the peculiarity of the appearance of these meteorological flying objects. The intermittent nature of the stroke of lightning may break up the streaks, forming a succession of strange shapes, as reported in UFO literature.

If these particles of water freeze, the ice is likely to form a compact lump, since the leading particles would be slowed by the resistance of the surrounding atmosphere. The lump would probably be layered because of the density changes due to intermittent current flow. Although the idea that a stroke of lightning can lead to the fall of a large single layered lump of ice may seem ridiculous, there is one remarkable much publicised incident (12)(13), which gives strong support to the process I describe, and there are several good reasons why this ice did not fall from an aircraft(11) and was not a hailstone or meteorite.

One other consequence of the formation of jets of charged particles is that if they approach an earthed object such as a metal lightning column, a charge of opposite sign will be induced and a visible atmospheric discharge may take place. This is one form of ball lightning which I have once seen. A similar process may be the cause of glow discharges travelling along power cables. Another form of ball lightning is probably caused by a sheath of charge formed round a lightning channel followed by a discharge tracking along the channel(14). Charges induced in the shell of an enclosure by an external charge, as in an aircraft flying through a thunderstorm, may explain ball lightning drifting along the centre of the enclosure(15). These points are relevant to the subject of UFOs as they serve to indicate that the claim regarding UFOs is not an isolated ad hoc suggestion, but part of an all-embracing theory covering a wide field, many aspects of which are fully supported by reliable observations. Indeed, the field extends to stellar and galactic astrophysics, where extensive jets and much other evidence of electrical discharge processes are very obvious(16), if not, as yet, widely recognised by professional astronomers, even though a charging process based on calculated values has been proposed(17).

I should add that my claim to explain many UFOs as natural phenomena does not imply that I consider there are no UFOs whatever. Some are quite clearly of unknown origin.

Sketch based on the original as provided by the author in Journal of Meteorology, showing the size of the ice block recovered by Dr.R.S.Griffiths on 2nd April 1973 after it had fallen some three metres from where he stood. This was the largest piece left intact from the huge lump that fell from the sky roughly ten minutes after a single violent flash of lightning over Manchester. See reference (13).



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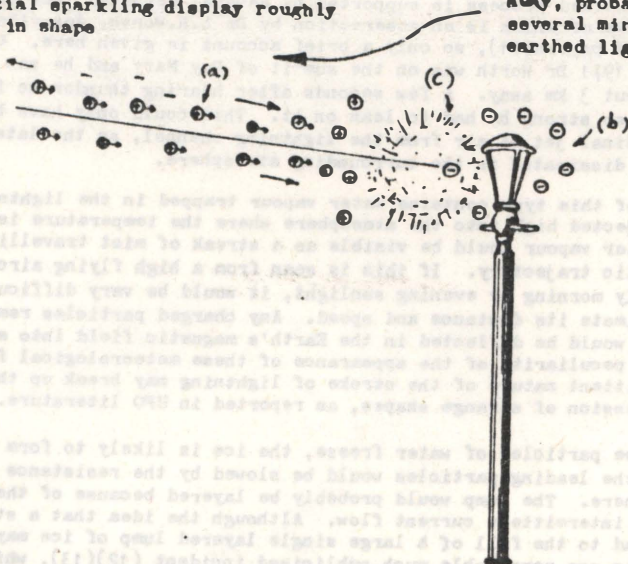
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SUGGESTED MECHANISMS FOR THE FORMATION OF BALL LIGHTNING

Ball Lightning (1)

(a) lightning produces a stream of charged particles which form a distant jet stream (ve ions downwards in rare cases). (b) these induce opposite charges on an earthed object, eg street lamp. (c) the discharge is visible as ball lightning near the earthed object. The one I saw was an insubstantial sparkling display roughly spherical in shape

To lightning channel several km away, probably taking jet stream several minutes to arrive at the earthed lightning column.



UFO's active — busy year ahead

TWO good cases of UFO sightings in the last few weeks have investigators wondering whether the State might be in for a busy winter of UFO activity.

The latest sighting was in the Fingal area on Friday. It followed a frightening experience for a Brighton woman who says she watched what appeared to be UFO activity for about 3 hours.

Both incidents are still being investigated, a spokesman for Tasmanian Unidentified Flying Objects Centre (TUFOIC), Mr Keith Roberts said yesterday.

The Fingal Valley sighting was made by Mr Don Ives, a former bank manager who said he saw a UFO the size of a small plane as it appeared to be landing in a gully. He said the UFO had what appeared to be port holes around it, and lights of all colours.

He said it was raining, and he stopped his car to make sure he was not simply seeing reflections from his car lights.

He watched the UFO disappear behind a hill but could still see the illumination from its lights.

So far is known there were no planes in the area at the time.

The other report being investigated by TUFOIC came from a Brighton woman who saw three lights which were moving about in the night sky about 12.30 am.

The woman, who was in her bedroom, said one of the lights came closer to her house, changed from white to red colour and then moved out of her range of vision. However, the bedroom was illuminated with an orange glow.

The woman said she then noticed that she could see the red coloured light as it was reflected in her bedroom mirror.

She told investigators she was "quite frightened."

The strange light stayed in the area until about 3.30 am, leaving only once and that was when the woman said she saw a plane in the night sky.

Inquiries showed the plane was a freightplane. After the plane had gone the light returned.

There were few UFO sightings in 1984, the main two being at Greens Beach in the north of the State, and at Turners Beach. The Greens Beach sighting was made in daylight, while the other was at 1.45 am.

There were no natural explanations for either of the sightings.

The sightings are given coverage in the annual report of TUFOIC. Mr Roberts said due to

high costs of printing the annual report was no longer offered for sale at Newsagents.

However, copies were supplied to members by TUFOIC. Membership of TUFOIC costs \$4 a year; members are kept up to date with Australian and international UFO sightings, and low-cost publications are available.

Crew spots big UFO

PEKING, Sun: The crew of a Chinese airliner flying over north-west China spotted a huge unidentified flying object travelling at high speed across their path, the official People's Daily reported today.

The paper said that the plane was on a night flight from Peking to Paris on June 11 when the crew saw the blue and white object.

The crew said that it was divided into three levels and had a bright spot in its centre. — Reuters

"WEST AUSTRALIAN"
29 JULY 1985 W.A.

29 MAY 1985
EDRWENT VALLEY
GAZETTE
NEW NORFOLK
TAS

Passengers report UFO

BUENOS AIRES — Passengers and crewmen aboard a commercial airliner saw two darting, pulsating unidentified flying objects over the interior province of Santiago Del Estero, local newspapers said on Monday.

The Daily Clarin of Buenos Aires, which had a photographer and a reporter aboard the plane returning from covering an auto race, carried pictures of the UFOs which appeared as vaguely shaped, bright objects against a dark sky.

The objects were sighted late on Sunday by people aboard an Aerolineas Argentinas Boeing 737 bound for Buenos Aires from Santiago Del Estero, 1250 km north of the capital.

"LAUNCESTON EXAMINER"
21st AUG 1985, TAS